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GENERAL DETAILS

Introduction

A Census of Population was taken on the night of Sunday, 13 April 1986 in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 1986 (S I No 61 of 1986)[1] Copies of the Census questionnaire and of accompanying instructions are reproduced in Appendix 1 Volume 1 of the detailed Census report

This third volume of the detailed report is in four parts In the first three parts household composition is analysed in the context of (a) all private households (b) private households in permanent housing units and (c) private households in temporary housing units The final part relates to family units and family cycle Some basic classifications for these variables have been previously published in the series of Summary Population Reports The territorial divisions of the country distinguished in this report are defined in Appendixes 2–4 of Volume 1

Subsequent Census volumes will analyse the population by such factors as industry occupation education Irish language etc

Coverage

The Census figures relate to the *de facto* population – i e the population recorded for each area represents the total of all persons present within its boundaries on the night of Sunday 13 April 1986, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday 14 April 1986 not having been enumerated elsewhere Persons on board ships in port are included with the population of adjacent areas The figures therefore include visitors present on Census night as well as those in residence while usual residents temporarily absent from the area are excluded

The date of the Census was chosen to coincide with a period when passenger movements were at a minimum and consequently the figures closely approximate to those for the normally resident population Members of the Defence Forces who on Census night were serving abroad with the United Nations were excluded from the enumeration

Conduct of the Census

The Census enumeration was carried out by a specially recruited temporary field force consisting of 327 fulltime supervisors and 3 221 part-time enumerators The Census questionnaires were distributed during the three weeks immediately preceding the Census night and the collection of the completed questionnaires commenced the following day The enumerators examined the questionnaires at the time of collection to ensure that they were correctly completed and where necessary, they assisted householders in their completion

Production of Results

Each enumerator prepared in the first instance a summary of the population in his/her Enumeration Area These summaries formed the basis for the provisional 1986 population results issued in two Census publications[2] within months of the Census date The completed questionnaires for the individual households were subsequently transmitted to the Census Office for processing

The enumeration summaries dwelling listings and enumeration maps were checked for consistency in county order and used to determine the boundaries of Census Towns and suburbs/environs of towns with legal boundaries The first stage clerical scrutiny and computer processing of the entries for date of birth, marital status and relationship to head of household on the Census questionnaire proceeded concurrently in the same county order These two operations combined allowed the publication of the first set of final Census results in a special series of Local Population Reports as individual counties were completed over a seven month period commencing in July 1987 A summary report for the State was issued in November 1987

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[1] Made by the Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach in pursuance of powers conferred on him by Sub-Section 1 of Section 16 of the Statistics Act 1926 and the Statistics Acts 1926 and 1946 (Transfer of Ministerial Functions) Order 1949 (S I No 142 of 1949) and the Statistics (Delegations of Ministerial Functions) Order 1983 (S I No 13 of 1983)

[2] Census of Population of Ireland 1986
Preliminary Population Figures (PI 4224) 14 July 1986
Preliminary Report (PI 4375) September 1986

These operations also form the basis of the first three volumes of the detailed Census report The computer processing of the remaining information on the Census questionnaires provided the basis for the second set of Local Population Reports published between November 1988 and June 1989 and for the second Summary State Report in November 1989 These further operations also form the basis for the remaining volumes of the detailed report

A complete list of the reports on the 1986 Census published to date is given in Appendix 2

Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)

Small area population statistics for Urban Districts Rural Districts Towns District Electoral Divisions, etc from the 1986 Census are available on a commercial basis in two formats One format contains detailed classifications of the population by age, sex and marital status and of households by size and by age, sex and marital status of the head of the household Details of family units classified by size, age of youngest child etc are also provided

The second format is more detailed and contains in addition classifications of the population by principal economic status, age and sex classifications of persons at work by sex, employment status and broad industrial sector classifications of persons at work unemployed and retired by sex and occupational group detailed classifications by socio-economic group social class age education ceased ability to speak Irish means of travel and distance travelled to work etc

These small area population statistics are available in the form of computer printout and magnetic tape For full details of the contents and charges contact

Central Statistics Office,
Census of Population Division,
Ardee Road,
Rathmines,
Dublin 6

Phone (01) 977144 Extensions 304, 310 and 347

DEFINITIONS

Private and Non-Private Households

A *Private Household* is defined as a group of persons living together (usually but not necessarily related) jointly occupying the whole or part of a private dwelling house flat or temporary dwelling and sharing a common budget A person who lives alone or a person who occupies only part of the living accommodation but does not normally share a common budget with the other occupants is regarded as constituting a separate private household

The details in Part 1 relate to all private households while the information in Part 2 refers to *private households in permanent housing units* and excludes households occupying caravans or other temporary dwellings (covered separately in Part 3)

A *Non-Private Household* is a boarding house hotel guest house, barrack, hospital nursing home boarding school religious institution welfare institution prison or ship etc However proprietors and managers of hotels principals of boarding schools persons in charge of various other types of institutions and members of staff who with their families occupy flats on the premises are classified as private households

Head of Household

This is the person in respect of whom information is entered on the first line of the Census questionnaire Private households were free to choose any adult member present on Census night as the *head of household*

Household Size

The number of persons in a household consists of the total number of persons present there on the night of Sunday 13 April 1986 together with all persons who arrived in the household on the morning of Monday 14 April 1986 not having been enumerated elsewhere

The size and composition of a household therefore, include visitors present in the household on Census night and exclude any usual residents of the household who were temporarily absent

Family Units

A family unit *or nucleus* is defined as

(1) a husband and wife or

(2) a husband and wife together with one or more usually resident single children (of any age) or

(3) one parent together with one or more usually resident single children (of any age)

The identification of family units is mainly based on the information returned on the Census questionnaire on the relationship of individual members to head of household While in general the information was sufficient to enable family units to be properly classified there were two particular circumstances in which it was not adequate

Firstly there were problems in identifying some unmarried parents with children as separate family units This happened particularly where one unmarried parent with one or more children lived with his/her parents and the information given on the relationship to head of household did not clearly identify the parent/child relationship In such cases the unmarried parent and children were subsumed in another family unit As a result of this the number of family units identified as consisting of a lone parent with children is probably underestimated to some degree

Secondly there were couples who although not married cohabited Where it was clear from the Census form that this relationship existed a couple together with their children if any were classed as a family unit Otherwise they were classed as other persons who may or may not have been attached to another identifiable family unit in the household

Finally because the Census figures relate to the *de facto* population, the composition, size and type of family units are affected by temporary absences of regular members from households on Census night In particular the temporary absence of one parent from a household on Census night (e g in hospital absent on business or holiday etc) reduced a two-parent unit to a one-parent unit To the extent that this has occurred, the number of one-parent family units is overstated at the expense of two-parent units The presence of visitors including family members who usually live elsewhere, in households on Census night may also have had the effect of creating a second family unit in what is normally a one-family household or of attaching other persons to the usually resident family unit

Family Cycle

Family Units are classified into thirty three family cycle stages allowing the summarisation of family cycles on the basis of youngest or oldest child This classification was introduced in the 1981 Census of Population and has been used in the Labour Force Surveys conducted since 1981 and in the Household Budget Survey Details for 1981 corresponding to Tables 33 and 34 are given in Appendix 1

Household Composition

The composition of private households was classified in such a way as to provide data similar to those available from recent previous Censuses On this occasion the former Two or more persons but not including a family unit category has been subdivided into 'Non-family households containing related persons" and ' Two or more persons not containing a family unit nor related persons'

The family unit forms the basis of the classification Households containing family units are further classified into those with and those without other persons Households containing more than one family unit are also separately distinguished as are one-person households Household size and composition relate only to the persons present in the household on Census night

The thirteen types of household used in the tabulations are –

Households consisting of –

1	One person only	
2	Couple	with no other persons
3	Couple and one or more single children (of any age)	with no other persons
4	Lone mother and one or more single children (of any age)	with no other persons
5	Lone father and one or more single children (of any age)	with no other persons
6	Couple	with other persons
7	Couple and one or more single children (of any age)	with other persons
8	Lone mother and one or more single children (of any age)	with other persons
9	Lone father and one or more single children (of any age)	with other persons
10	Two family units with or without other persons	
11	Three or more family units with or without other persons	
12	Non-family households containing related persons	
13	Two or more persons not containing a family household nor related persons	

COMMENTARY

The Commentary relates to **all private households** *unlike corresponding commentaries for previous Censuses which related largely to private households in permanent housing units*

Private Households

The population enumerated at the 1986 Census was 3 540 643 persons of whom 3 442 303 were in private households and 98 340 were in non-private households Of those in private households 3,413,171 were in permanent housing units while 29 132 were in temporary housing units

There were in all 976 304 private households of which 964 882 were in permanent housing units and 11 422 were in temporary units The average size of private households was 3 53 persons compared with 3 66 in 1981 and 3 93 in 1971

Table A - Private Households classified by Composition 1981 and 1986, showing the percentage change in each category

Composition of Household	Number of Households		Change 1981 - 1986	
	1981	1986	Actual	Per Cent
				%
One Person	155 726	180 793	+ 25 067	+ 16 1
Husband and Wife (or Couple)	101 460	109 590	+ 8 130	+ 8 0
Husband and Wife (or Couple) with Children (of any age)	398 441	429 187	+ 30 746	+ 7 7
One Parent with Children (of any age)	71 283	81 087	+ 9 804	+ 13 8
Husband and Wife (or Couple) with other persons	15 422	14 184	- 1 238	- 8 0
Husband and Wife (or Couple) with Children (of any age) and with other persons	64 643	62 830	- 1 813	- 2 8
One Parent with Children (of any age) with other persons	15 471	16 902	+ 1 431	+ 9 2
Two family units with or without other persons	19 894	12 604	- 7 290	- 36 6
Three or more family units with or without other persons	373	164	- 209	- 56 0
Two or more persons but not including a family unit	67 987	68 963	+ 976	+ 1 4
Total	910 700	976 304	+ 65 604	+ 7 2

Between 1981 and 1986 the number of private households increased by 65 600 or 7 2 per cent The number of one-person households increased by over 25 000 or 16 1 per cent Despite the overall increase in household numbers there were large variations among the particular household types In general households comprising single family units showed considerable increases while multi-family households or households comprising family units together with other persons generally declined

It should be particularly noted that the age of children is not taken into account in defining the household type For example a household comprised of a couple and their child aged 10 years is assigned to Type 3 as is a household comprised of a couple and their son aged 30, if the son is unmarried and usually resident with them

Marital Status

Information on marital status was sought in the following format

MARITAL STATUS — for persons born on or before 13 April, 1971

Was the person ever married? Please ✓ the appropriate box.	What is the marital status of persons who were ever married (Yes at Q 5) Indicate the present actual marital status irrespective of the legal status. Please ✓ the appropriate box.			
Yes ☐ 1	Widowed	☐ 1	Married but Separated	
	Remarried		Deserted	☐ 5
No ☐ 2	following widowhood	☐ 2	Marriage Annulled	☐ 6
	following dissolution of previous		Legally Separated.	☐ 7
	marriage (annulment or divorce)	☐ 3	Other Separated	☐ 8
	Married	☐ 4	Divorced in another country	☐ 9

In the Tables the category *married* includes *remarried* while *separated* includes persons recorded as *deserted marriage annulled legally separated other separated* and *divorced in another country*

One-Person Households

In Table B one-person households are classified by age and sex of the household member for 1981 and 1986 The percentage changes from 1981 to 1986 are also shown

Table B – One-Person Households classified by age and sex of household member, 1981 and 1986

Age Group	Males			Females		
	1981	1986	Change 1981–1986	1981	1986	Change 1981–1986
			%			%
Under 25 years	4,308	4 844	+ 12 4	4 412	4,484	+ 1 6
25–29	5 081	6 089	+ 19 8	3,532	3,849	+ 9 0
30–34	4 421	5 845	+ 32 2	2 654	3 597	+ 35 5
35–39	3 816	5 652	+ 48 1	2 022	3 196	+ 58 1
40–44	4 635	5 196	+ 12 1	2,086	2 808	+ 34 6
45–49	5 615	6 254	+ 11 4	2 709	2 957	+ 9 2
50–54	7 260	7 386	+ 1 7	4,053	3,946	– 2 6
55–59	8 001	8 578	+ 7 2	6 002	6 241	+ 4 0
60–64	8 195	9 092	+ 10 9	8,890	9,623	+ 8 2
65–69	8 734	9 418	+ 7 8	13 034	14 388	+ 10 4
70–74	7 290	8 608	+ 18 1	13,196	16,172	+ 22 6
75 years and over	8 029	9 938	+ 23 8	17 751	22,632	+ 27 5
Total	75 385	86 900	+ 15 3	80 341	93,893	+ 16 9

The number of males living alone increased by 11 500 and females by 13 600 between 1981 and 1986 There were particularly large proportionate increases for males in the 30–39 age groups and females in the 30–44 age groups Between 1981 and 1986 the number of males over 65 years of age living alone increased by 3 900 or 16 3 per cent for females the corresponding increase was 9,200 or 20 9 per cent

Some 16 6 per cent of males and 24 7 per cent of females over 65 years of age were living alone Both the higher female life expectancy and the tendency generally for females to marry older males are contributory factors to this sex difference For example of the 86 900 males living alone some 12,500 (14 3 per cent) are widowed while of the 93 900 females some 46 300 (49 3 per cent) are widowed Some 17 5 per cent of males and 26 per cent of females over 75 years of age were living alone

Size of Household

As can be seen from Table C the trend towards smaller household size (i e number of persons in the household) which has been a feature for many years now continued in the 1981-1986 period

Table C - Private Households classified by household size, 1981 and 1986

Number of Persons in Household	Number of Households		Change 1981 - 1986	
	1981	1986	Actual	Per Cent
				%
1	155 726	180 793	+ 25,067	+ 16 1
2	184 067	198 048	+ 13,981	+ 7 6
3	136 357	144 835	+ 8 478	+ 6 2
4	140 317	156 675	+ 16 358	+ 11 7
5	117 202	127 844	+ 10 642	+ 9 1
6	80 683	83 941	+ 3 258	+ 4 0
7	46,564	44 322	- 2 242	- 4 8
8	27 351	23 219	- 4 132	- 15 1
9	10 671	8 517	- 2 154	- 20 2
10	5 737	4 167	- 1 570	- 27 4
11	2,990	2 048	- 942	- 31 5
12 or more	3 035	1 895	- 1 140	- 37 6
Total	910 700	976 304	+ 65,604	+ 7 2

Between 1981 and 1986 households of all sizes up to 6 persons showed increases while all sizes from 7 persons upwards showed declines The largest increases both in actual and percentage terms were for one-person and four-person households The number of households with 7 persons or more declined from 96 348 (10 6 per cent of the total) in 1981 to 84,168 (8 6 per cent of the total) in 1986

Headship Rates

The headship rates - i e the percentage of males and females in various age or marital status groups who are heads of households - are sometimes used in conjunction with population projections to estimate future housing demand

Table D shows the percentage of males and females in certain broad age groups who were heads of households in 1981 and 1986 - both for all types of household and also excluding one-person households

Table D - Percentage of Males and Females in certain broad age groups who were Heads of Households, 1981 and 1986

Sex and Age Group	All types of households		Excluding one-person households	
	1981	1986	1981	1986
Males				
15-24 years	9 5	7 9	8 3	6 4
25-44	71 4	71 1	70 1	69 6
45-64	84 8	86 2	83 1	84 6
65 years and over	77 9	79 8	74 2	75 8
Females				
15-24 years	4 8	5 3	3 4	3 9
25-44	9 1	12 5	6 8	9 8
45-64	21 4	22 0	15 2	15 5
65 years and over	40 7	43 1	24 4	24 4

For all household types the headship rates for males aged 15-24 and 25-44 declined slightly between 1981 and 1986 while there were increases for the other age/sex groupings If persons living alone are excluded the same patterns are evident but the main impact is the significant reduction in the headship rates for older females

Table E gives similar headship rate data for certain marital status categories

Table E - Percentage of Single, Ever-Married and Widowed Males and Females who were Heads of Households, 1981 and 1986.

Sex and Marital Status	All types of households		Excluding one-person households	
	1981	1986	1981	1986
Males				
Single	20 1	20 0	9 9	9 0
Ever-married (excl widowed)	90 9	91 5	90 8	91 4
Widowed	72 5	74 5	61 7	62 1
Females				
Single	15 7	16 5	7 2	7 8
Ever-married (excl widowed)	5 3	7 5	4 7	6 8
Widowed	69 1	71 8	57 8	59 0

The headship rates for males are higher than for females in all marital status categories but particularly so for married persons The exclusion of one-person households significantly affects the rates for single and widowed males and females

Family Units

In the earlier part of the commentary private households were analysed by type defined on the basis of the presence or absence on Census night of an identifiable family unit In this section there is further analysis of the family units themselves and their composition

Table F - Number of Households, Number of Family Units and Number of Persons classified by composition of Household, 1986

Composition of Household	Number of Households	Number of Identified Family Units	Total Number of Persons in the Household
Single family unit	713 780	713 780	3,011,866
Two family units	12 604	25 208	79 860
Three or more family units	164	492	1 477
Total with a family unit	726 548	739 480	3 093,203
One person households	180 793	-	180,793
Two or more persons but no family unit	68 963	-	168 307
Total in Private Households	976 304	739,480	3,442,303

The total number of family units (as defined) was 739 480 an increase of almost 32 000 since 1981 Households containing family units accounted for 3 093 203 persons a further 349,100 persons were in private households not containing an identifiable family unit and the remainder of the population (98 340 persons) were in non-private households

A very detailed classification of the population by five year age group marital status and whether a member of a family unit or otherwise is given in Table 32 As mentioned previously there are important qualifications arising from the Census procedures and definitions which must be borne in mind when interpreting the figures - in particular the impact of temporary absences from the usual residence on Census night and the fact that an unmarried child of any age can be classified as a 'child in a family unit Table G following, summarises the composition of family households using broad age groupings

Table G – Population in Family Households distinguishing Males and Females classified by position in Family Unit and by broad age group – 1986

Position in Family Unit and Broad Age Group		Persons	Males	Females
Husbands and Wives (or Couples)	Total	1 269 534	634,767	634 767
Under 55 years – with children		826 170	395 728	430 442
– no children		115 774	55 114	60 660
Aged 55 years and over				
– with children		179 128	106 921	72 207
– no children		148 462	77 004	71 458
Lone Parent	Total	104 713	19 020	85 693
Under 55 years		45 686	6 939	38 747
55 years and over		59 027	12 081	46 946
Children (single of any age) with both Parents	Total	1 400 795	738 170	662 625
Under 15 years of age		932 692	478 173	454 519
15 and under 25		395 702	212 508	183 194
25 years and over		72 401	47 489	24 912
Children (single of any age) with one Parent	Total	205 073	117,197	87 876
Under 15 years of age		69 436	35,437	33 999
15 and under 25		69 440	37 831	31 609
25 years and over		66 197	43 929	22 268
Other Persons in Family Households	Total	113 088	48 068	65 020
Under 15 years of age		11 935	6 004	5 931
15 and under 25		28 142	12 957	15 185
25 and under 55		23 282	12 967	10 315
55 years and over		49 729	16 140	33 589
Population in Family Households		3 093 203	1 557 222	1 535 981

Of the 634 767 family units with both husband and wife (or couple) present 502 649 or over 79 per cent had children Over 82 per cent of the parents involved (79 per cent of males and 86 per cent of females) were under 55 years of age For couples with no children present on Census night about 56 per cent were over 55 years of age

There were 104 713 family units with just one parent present on Census night – 19 020 males and 85 693 females of whom 12 770 and 54 747 respectively were widowed while 2 208 and 14,965 respectively were separated